

**BEYOND NUMBER GRADES**  
**END OF YEAR**  
**REFLECTION**

**TAKE THE BEST**  
**INFORMATION**  
**WITH YOU**

**CRUMBINE EDUCATION**  
**CONSULTING**

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[www.crumbineed.com](http://www.crumbineed.com)

Founded in 2013, Crumbine Education Consulting uses over twenty years of educational experience to help parents get the best education for their children. **We believe the key to a child's success in school is closely tied to how parents and teachers engage as partners.** Because of this deeply held belief, we provide parents the tools they need to engage productively with their child's teacher, as well as tools to help them make informed decisions about where their children go to school.

The **End of the Year Reflection** provides your child's teacher the opportunity to reflect on your child's academic and developmental/social strengths and areas of improvement in a narrative form. The completed **End of Year Reflection** can also be shared with the next teacher as a way to introduce your child and his/her most recent academic history.

This document is especially helpful for students transitioning from one school to another, as parents can use this information to identify which types of schools might best fit their child.

We've included the reflection template, a sample conference script, and the email for you to send to your child's teacher at the end of April for a mid-May conference. To get your teacher's most thoughtful, concrete feedback, be sure to give them at least one week to prepare.

I know this document will help you feel confident in your ability to lead and engage in critical conversations with your child's teachers .



Aisha Crumbine, Principal Consultant  
Crumbine Education Consulting

## END OF YEAR REFLECTION

### why this tool

The **End of the Year Reflection** will help you

- Identify and keep track of your child's academic strengths and challenges as well as his/her habits of mind.
- Track the strategies worked well with her during the school year.
- Identify things your child can do during the summer to avoid regressing.
- Be the foundation for establishing a partnership with the next teacher to ensure your child's success.

At the end of the year, your child's teachers will have spent nearly 2,000 hours learning your son or daughter. By collecting and sharing the strategies that have worked with your student, the new teacher has a go-to guide that can provide continuity in learning.

You will want to have this conversation face-to-face for two reasons: good relationship or not, some teachers may not be comfortable writing this information down and sending it off into the abyss. Having a conversation is easier on them, and sending them the form ahead of time is a nice courtesy.

The second reason to have this conversation in person, is that your child gets to be present. Nothing is better for a child's self esteem than to hear how he/she has progressed over the year, to hear how or why that progress happened, and to be a part of goal setting/game planning for the summer. And while the download might not be all great news, it's important for your child to hear that as well. Think of it like a well-done annual review at work.

When you arrive for the conference, approach the conversation by essentially restating what was in your email and then dig in.

*Note: Still nervous about how to start this conversation? There's a sample script included on the last page.*

## END OF YEAR REFLECTION

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

As we begin to think about the upcoming transition to the next grade, we cannot possibly move forward without first expressing our gratitude. Over the year, you have worked with us to help our child make enormous academics and developmental progress. For that, we are eternally grateful.

We believe you have learned things about our child that are invaluable, and we want to build off of what was accomplished this year--next year. To that end, we hope you will share your insights here, so we can pass them along to next year's teachers.

We deeply appreciate the time it takes and look forward to setting a time for us to close out the year. Would you send along a few dates/times that work for us to have a 45 minute conversation to wrap up the year?

With gratitude,

P.S. If you'd prefer for us to fill this out together, I completely understand. At the very least, I wanted to give you an opportunity to preview the gist of our conversation.

# END OF YEAR REFLECTION

## Guiding Questions

- What were the key academic concepts that were to be learned this year?
- How did my child perform against those standards beyond number grades?

### ACADEMICS

#### 2-3 STRENGTHS

#### 2-3 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

#### STRENGTHS (LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY, HABITS, ETC.)

#### AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

NOTES/OBSERVATIONS THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO NEXT YEAR'S TEACHER  
(EVIDENCE OF GROWTH, TRENDS, SPECIAL SEATING, ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.)

# END OF YEAR NARRATIVE

WHEN DOES MY CHILD COME ALIVE IN CLASS—WITH WHAT SUBJECT(S), TYPES OF LESSONS/ACTIVITIES, ETC.? WHAT ABOUT THESE CLASSES/ACTIVITIES APPEAL TO MY CHILD?

WHEN DOES MY CHILD SHIRK AWAY FROM OR STRUGGLE WITH LEARNING? SPECIFIC EXAMPLES ARE APPRECIATED. WHAT REDIRECTING/ENCOURAGING STRATEGIES HAVE YOU FOUND EFFECTIVE?

WOULD YOU SAY THAT MY CHILD IS A CONFIDENT (SELF-ADVOCATING, COMFORTABLE, ETC.) OR RELUCTANT (NEEDS TO BE ENCOURAGED, UNCERTAIN, ETC.) LEARNER? PLEASE SHARE DETAILS.

WOULD YOU SAY THAT MY CHILD IS IN THE TOP, MIDDLE OR BOTTOM TIER OF THEIR PEERS IN TERMS OF ACADEMICS? DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS THE PEAK OF MY CHILD'S POTENTIAL? IF THE ANSWER IS 'NO', WHAT WOULD YOU THINK MIGHT HELP MAXIMIZE THEIR POTENTIAL?

SOCIALLY, AND IN TERMS OF MATURITY, WOULD YOU SAY THAT MY CHILD IS IN THE TOP, MIDDLE OR BOTTOM TIER OF HIS PEERS? WOULD YOU SAY THAT MY CHILD GOES WITH THE FLOW OR LEADS THE FLOW? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

WHAT TYPE OF KIDS DOES MY CHILD GRAVITATE TOWARDS? SHY AWAY FROM?

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING: MY CHILD WOULD BENEFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM BEING WITH TEACHERS WHO \_\_\_ BECAUSE \_\_\_.

## END OF YEAR REFLECTION

### sample script

**This is a snapshot of a late-April conversation is between a 4th grade parent and teacher initiated by the parent.**

**Parent:** Thank you, Mrs. Smith for meeting with me today. I know you are terribly busy with all you have to do as a teacher, so I really appreciate you taking this twenty minutes to sit down with me.

**Mrs. Smith:** Sure, no problem. What did you want to talk about today?

**Parent:** Well, the other day I was thinking about John coming up on the end of the year. I've been working on an education plan that helps me make sure John is successful academically and personally. I was thinking about where I'd like for him to go to middle school and what kind of grades he'd need to make, the kind of study habits he'll need and of course what kind of person he'll need to be to not only get into that school but be successful there.

**Mrs. Smith:** Oh wow. You're thinking about middle school already? John's only in 4th grade. That's awesome.

**Parent:** Thanks. I guess I just want to make sure I'm doing everything I can to help him be successful--without being a helicopter parent of course. <smile> When I was thinking about all of this, I realized that you have such a valuable insight that I don't have. You spend half of everyday with him, and I think of you as a parent-away-from home. And what's even better is that you know what successful students do well, so I'd love to talk about where John stands academically, in terms of study habits and just overall. I'd like to know your thoughts so we can work together to make sure we are pushing him to be his best and so that I can share this information with next year's teacher, so he'll know all about John from the very beginning of the school year and so we can work together to keep John on the path that you and I started this year.

**Mrs. Smith:** Wow. It's really great that you are thinking about all of this. I'd be happy to talk about where John is and what we can do to make sure that he's ready to finish the rest of this year strong and go into next year ready.

**Parent:** Awesome. I brought a couple of questions that I thought we could start with...